

USER-RELAYED DATA BROADCASTING

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

User Relayed Broadcasting (URB) software creates a media file segmentation and
5 distribution system for affordable broadband live media broadcasting over the Internet to vast
audiences. It solves the bandwidth problem for live broadcast servers, eliminating the need
to choose between quantity and quality when broadcasting live media over the Internet. URB
receives a data stream from a conventionally-encoded media source, segments it into small
files, uploads the files to users who re-upload them repeatedly in a chain-letter style
10 multiplier network, and then plays the files back continuously through a conventional media
player half a minute later. In effect it only simulates live broadcasting – it isn't live and it
isn't broadcasting. It is file-sharing, or rather file-distributing, of media files using a very
brief create-distribute-redistribute-play cycle and a time-synchronization protocol. Put
simply, URB combines features of (1) live web-based media, such as Shoutcast or Icecast;
15 (2) a file-sharing system similar to Gnutella or Napster; and (3) a cyberspace time-
synchronization protocol.